

numbers of birds were still present at these rocks on 14 February (G. Harold pers. comm.). It is possible that the birds breeding on the mainland were unable to find suitable nest sites on the adjacent small islands.

Our dates of summer breeding are also interesting. Serventy *et al.* indicate that birds breed only in spring in southern Western Australia and by late summer are migrating north. They note, however, that this species has recently colonised Baudin Rocks in South Australia where it breeds in January.

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Chestnut Whistling Duck in the Perth Region — The Chestnut Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*) was seen on the eastern side of Lake Herdsman (31° 55'S, 115° 48'E) on 11 November 1985. Two birds were present and were observed intermittently until January 1986. The last observation was made on 9 January. Generally, the ducks were very retiring and difficult to discern over an average water distance of 100 m. Only good binoculars or a telescope revealed their identity.

Over time they were seen camped and/or preening amongst coots, black ducks or grey teal on what may be called the far shore. Only rarely were they noted swimming in front of the bulrush-dominated foreshore and were never observed feeding. No sound was recorded nor were they seen flying. At times, depending on light and water conditions, their rufous brown underparts from the chest downwards, as well as the oblique flank plumes, were quite obvious. Bill and legs were black, face light brown with a dark brown crown stripe; only rarely the white undertail was noted. Only once were they on the observer's side of the water, and their upright stance while swimming was quite distinct from the other local ducks. This is only the second published record of this tropical species in the Perth area. A specimen had been collected at Wanneroo in 1899 (Serventy & Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*).

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Notes of Reproduction in Captive *Lialis burtonis* — On 19 January 1985 a gravid *Lialis burtonis* (snout-vent-length 176mm, total length 365mm; weight after oviposition 13.0gm) was collected at Kings Park, near Perth. It was active on a bicycle track in the early evening among Jarrah and Banksia woodland.

The lizard was housed in a 60 cm vivarium using light yellow sand as substrate; cage furnishings consisted of a fragmented clay tile for shelter and an overhanging branch for climbing. An artificial light consisting of a 60 watt incandescent lamp was used and *Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus* skinks were offered for food but no interest was shown in these.

Two eggs were laid on 28 January. Immediately after weighing and measuring, (Table 1) the eggs were placed in a margarine container on dampened vermiculite with 'cling wrap' being pulled

tight over the top. This allowed for easy observation. The container was placed on top of the refrigerator where the temperature ranged from 27-29°C.

On 2 February the female was released at the capture site. On arrival home from an Easter holiday during 5-8 April the eggs had hatched after 67-71 days. Both hatchlings appeared to be healthy and very alert. They were measured (Table 1) and placed into an icecream container using grey sand as substrate with dead leaves and small rocks for shelter. They were extremely active, moving around the perimeter of the container. Their colour and pattern was the same as the adult — grey dorsally and black ventrally with yellow spots. Although juvenile *Menetia greyii* and a variety of insects were supplied no feeding or sloughing was observed before their release on 15 April.

Table 1: Egg and hatchling data for captive *Lialis burtonis*.

EGG		HATCHLING		
Size (mm)	Weight (gm)	SVL (mm)	TL (mm)	Weight (gm)
23 x 11	2.0	68	135	1.7
22 x 9	1.8	66	137	1.5

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Whiskered Tern records from Rottnest Island — The Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* is not a marine species and usually occurs around large freshwater or brackish inland swamps and lakes, but it may be found occasionally visiting estuaries and sheltered seas (Serventy *et al.* 1971, *The Handbook of Aust. Seabirds*; Reader's Digest 1976, *Complete Book of Aust. Birds*; Storr and Johnstone 1979, *Field Guide to the Birds of Western Australia*). Rottnest Island has 10% of its surface area covered by a series of hyper-saline lakes, is 18 km off the coast, and there is no suitable habitat for the Whiskered Tern. Therefore, it is interesting when the birds appear as vagrants.

Our first record is of 10 Whiskered Terns flying around Herschell Lake at 0815 on 11 October 1983 (C.P. de R and D.A.S.). The birds were using a gently swooping flight, dipping down to the surface of the lake. They were seen later that day resting on the spit on the south side of Herschell Lake. The second record was made on 1 October 1985 when 6 birds were flying around Government House Lake (P.R.E., H.F.R. and D.A.S.), swooping down to the surface of the lake, apparently feeding. The third record was of one bird swooping low over Herschell Lake on 8 December 1986 (D.A.S.). All records were made under good light conditions, the birds were observed for some time and there was no doubt about the identity of the species.

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